

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18596 311738Z

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /017 W  
----- 076465

R 311420Z DEC 75  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8333  
INFO USIA WASHDC  
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS MOSCOW 18596

E.O. 11652 N/A  
TAGS: OEXC, UR  
SUBJECT: EXCHANGES: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS (CU/ARTS): AMERICAN  
CONSERVATORY THEATER (ACT)

STATE FOR CU/ARTS, CU/EE, EUR/SOV  
LENINGRAD FOR P&C  
USIA FOR IEU

1. GOSK REQUESTS THAT AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER ADVANCE TEAM VISIT IN EITHER THE PERIOD AFTER JANUARY TWENTY AND BEFORE FEBRUARY ONE, OR AFTER MARCH FIFTEEN. FEBRUARY VISIT RULED OUT BY GOSK DUE TO PARTY CONGRESS. PERIOD OF VISIT SUGGESTED BY GOSK IS FOUR TO SIX DAYS. HEAVY JANUARY SCHEDULE AT POST WOULD MAKE MARCH VISIT PREFERABLE.

2. GOSK DIRECTOR SUPAGIN IN DECEMBER THIRTY MEETING SUGGESTED FOLLOWING POSSIBILITY FOR ACT TOUR: PERIOD OF TOUR THREE WEEKS IN TWO CITIES (MOSCOW, LENINGRAD), OR FOUR WEEKS IN THREE CITIES (MOSCOW, LENINGRAD, KIEV). HE EXPRESSED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR THE THREE WEEK OPTION. SUPAGIN EXPLAINED THAT SMALL AUDIENCE CAPACITY FOR THEATERS AND PHILHARMONIC HALLS (SEE SEPTEL RE N.Y. PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA) IN SOVIET UNION COMBINED WITH FIXED, LOW TICKET PRICES MEANT THAT EVEN IF ONLY TRANSPORTATION AND LODGING ARE PAID FOR, THEATER COMPANIES AND ORCHESTRAS WILL LOSE MONEY. THUS, HE REQUESTED A SHORTENING OF THE PERIOD FOR THIS TYPE OF ATTRACTION. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, EVEN SOVIET THEATERS AND PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRAS MUST BE LOSING  
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MONEY WHILE PERFORMING IN THE SOVIET UNION. SUPAGIN AGREED.

EMBOFF STATED THAT RESULT WAS SYSTEM IN WHICH SOVIET GOVERNMENT  
SUBSIDIZED LOCAL PERFORMING ARTS BUT RESISTED EXTENDING SAME  
SUPPORT TO FOREIGN PAG'S WHILE SENDING SOV PAGS TO FOREIGN  
COUNTRIES AND EARNING AT THE MUCH HIGHER FOREIGN RATE. SUPAGIN  
COUNTERED THAT FOREIGN EARNINGS WERE NOT THAT GREAT BUT RESISTED  
INVITATION TO BECOME MORE SPECIFIC. EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT  
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SYSTEMS REQUIRED POINT-BY-POINT  
COMPARISON OF COSTS AND PROFITS TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED INEQUITIES  
AND SEEK SOLUTIONS. SUPAGIN AGREED THAT THIS MIGHT BE VALUABLE  
EXERCISE FOR NEW YEAR.

COMMENT: SUPAGIN'S AGREEMENT TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC CONDITIONS OF  
PAG EXCHANGE MAY FADE IN NEW YEEAR, BUT POST INTENDS TO PURSE  
ISSUE. POST RECOMMENDS THAT U.S. SIDE SHOULD INSIST ON FOUR WEEK,  
THREE CITY TOUR.  
MATLOCK

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